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BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH

Annual Report

—OF THE—

Medical Officer of Health

Including the Report of the
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

1954

BOROUGH OF FARNWORTH.

*With
the Compliments of the
Medical Officer
of Health*

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SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

1954

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

*Chairman : ALDERMAN J. A. DEAN

*Vice-Chairman : COUNCILLOR W. NICHOLLS

Members :

*The Mayor (Councillor R. Neary, J.P.)

Alderman W. McManus, C.A.

*Alderman W. Welsby

Councillor H. Armitage, B.Sc.

Councillor G. Bloor

*Councillor H. Brindle

Councillor J. R. Evans

Councillor J. W. Geere, C.C.

*Councillor J. Hardy, (Miss)

*Councillor J. Higgins

*Councillor P. Smith

Councillor J. M. White

**Members of the Sub-Committee*

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health :

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

A. H. S. LEWIS, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I.,
Food Inspection.

Sanitary Inspectors :

J. F. PICKLES, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I.,
Food Inspection.

A. PARTINGTON, CERT. R.S.I. & S.I.E. JT. BOARD, R.S.I.,
Food Inspection.

Clerks :

Mrs. M. M. Taylor

Miss E. Simms

MR. MAYOR, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Annual Report on the health of the Borough, together with the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report, for the year 1954.

There has been little change in the Death and Infantile Mortality Rates but there has been a slight fall in the Birth Rate to 14.5 from 15.4 of the previous year.

Infectious disease as a cause of death is now becoming a rarity.

The decline in the incidence of infectious disease in the country has been marked during recent years. Tremendous progress has been made in the prevention and the treatment of these diseases.

Infectious diseases hospitals which in past years were unable at times to cope with those cases seeking admission are now able to accommodate other diseases and find room for the nursing of the elderly sick.

This decline in the incidence of the serious infections is in the main the accomplishment of the public health service. The cod liver oil and orange juice of the infants' early months, the immunisation against whooping cough and diphtheria, the better food, better housing conditions and health propaganda have been the weapons waged in this war against infection.

Measles reached a figure of 417 notified, the highest since 1948. Still a highly infectious disease, under modern treatment it is no longer a menace.

There were 113 cases of dysentery notified during the year. These were all due to *Sh. Sonnei*, but recovery in most cases was rapid and uneventful. This type of dysentery, which was common throughout the country, is very difficult to control in a scattered population, although prevention is extremely simple. If every person immediately after using the lavatory would wash his or her hands the danger of spreading infection is eliminated. The spread of these highly infectious dysenteries is always due to a lapse in personal hygiene on the part of someone.

There were eight cases of food poisoning during the year, each due to *Salmonella Typhi-murium*. Every case was thoroughly investigated and each case was found to be an isolated one due to the ingestion of some food containing the organism. This is the organism that is sometimes present in duck eggs and has also been found in cooked meats, pies, brawn, potted meat etc., which have become contaminated.

It can only be stressed again as forcibly as possible that in all establishments preparing cooked foods great care in personal hygiene should be exercised by every member of the staff and if duck eggs are used in the manufacture then they, or the produce of which they are an ingredient, should be thoroughly cooked. The housewife in the home should, of course, be equally cautious in her kitchen.

The problem of old people is still of some magnitude. There is still serious lack of accommodation for those old people who for some reason or another are unable to care adequately for themselves. It is a poor policy if we lavish such care on those commencing their lives in this country and make insufficient provision for those nearing their departure.

Very slowly we are demolishing the older houses in the Borough and the problem of housing, though still acute enough, is slowly resolving itself.

There is much work these days for an efficient Health Department to do. It is not the fault of the Borough Council nor the Health Department that progress is not as rapid as most people would wish. We cannot demolish old houses until we are sure that there are other houses available for the tenants, and since the number of new houses we can erect in a year is subject to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's sanction there exists a curb on the ambitions of the Council for more and better houses in the Borough.

I am grateful to the members of the Council for their help and encouragement and again indebted to the staff of the Health Department for their loyalty and co-operation.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

R. SYDNEY DAVIDSON.

Medical officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area = 1,504 statute acres.

Population..... 27,910 Estimated mid-1954.
28,614 Census 1951.

Number of inhabited houses, 1931 7,104
Number of inhabited houses, 1954 9,056
Rateable Value (1st April, 1954) £156,045
Sum represented by 1d. rate £621

Vital Statistics for the year 1954

BIRTHS		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate		200	195	395
Illegitimate		7	6	13
Total Births		207	201	408
STILL BIRTHS		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate		4	7	11
Illegitimate		—	—	—
Total		4	7	11
		Farn- worth	England & Wales	
BIRTH RATE per 1,000 population....		14·5	15·2	
Still Births per 1,000 total births		26	23·4	
Still Births per 1,000 population		0·39	0·36	
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR		Males	Females	Total
Legitimate		8	5	13
Illegitimate		—	1	1
Total		8	6	14
INFANT MORTALITY RATE		Farn- worth	England & Wales	
(all infants under 1 year of age per 1000 live births)		34	25·5	
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age.		11		
Maternal Deaths.....		Nil	478	
DEATH RATE		Farn- worth	England & Wales	
Per 1,000 population		11·9	11·3	

Causes of Death in all ages in 1954

	Males	Females
Pulmonary tuberculosis	4	2
Non-pulmonary tuberculosis	1	—
Syphilitic disease	1	—
Meningococcal infection	—	1
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	8	3
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	6	2
Malignant neoplasm, breast	1	4
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms....	13	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	2	—
Diabetes.....	1	6
Vascular lesions of nervous system	19	26
Coronary disease, angina	25	18
Hypertension with heart disease	7	7
Other heart disease	20	30
Other circulatory disease	11	14
Influenza	—	1
Pneumonia	4	2
Bronchitis	13	16
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	—	3
Nephritis and nephrosis	2	2
Congenital malformations	1	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	18
Accidents	5	3
Suicide	2	1
Total	<u>163</u>	<u>176</u>

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED
DURING THE YEAR 1954

Notifiable Diseases	Age periods — years									Total
	0—	1—	3—	5—	10—	15—	25—	45—	65 & over	
Scarlet fever.....	—	1	12	31	8	—	—	—	—	52
Measles	12	78	134	192	—	—	1	—	—	417
Whooping Cough.....	1	10	7	9	—	—	—	—	—	27
Acute pneumonia	2	3	1	5	1	4	2	4	3	25
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	—	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	6
Meningococcal infection.	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Dysentery.....	1	20	22	40	12	—	14	4	—	113
Erysipelas.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	6	4	12
Food poisoning	1	2	—	—	1	1	2	1	—	8
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	3	9	5	1	18
(Pulmonary)										
Tuberculosis.....	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	3
(Non-pulmonary)										
Totals	19	114	176	278	22	12	33	21	8	683

NO. OF CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON THE REGISTER AT THE END OF 1954

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	57	61	118
Non-pulmonary	19	18	37

DIPHTHERIA

There were no cases of diphtheria in the resident population of Farnworth during 1954.

PNEUMONIA

There were 25 cases notified during the year and there were 6 deaths.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Out of 6 cases notified during the year, 5 belonged to outside districts.

FOOD POISONING

There were 8 cases of food poisoning notified during 1954, all of which were due to salmonella typhi-murium.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

The town is supplied with water by Bolton Corporation. The water is derived from upland gathering grounds and is filtered and treated before going into supply. It is soft in nature and satisfactory in quality and quantity. All dwellings in the Borough are supplied directly with water.

The supply was from Heaton Sand Filters, Ferns Park Pressure Filters and the Sweetloves Open Sand Filters, and 36 samples of both raw and filtered water were subjected to full chemical analysis and 151 samples of raw and 151 samples of filtered water to bacteriological examination by the Bolton Borough Analyst. The results showed that general filtration and treatment of the raw water were necessary and that the filtered and treated water was of excellent quality, B. Coli being absent in almost all cases in 100 mils. All water is treated before passing into supply.

From tests made weekly the water was shown to have no plumbo-solvent action.

No action was required to be taken in respect of any form of contamination.

An additional 341 yards of water main varying in diameter from 2" to 6" were laid in Farnworth during the year.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

All new drainage work and alterations to existing drainage systems are inspected by a Sanitary Inspector and, where necessary, tested by smoke test.

The disposal of sewage is almost entirely on the combined system.

On the 1st April, 1954, the control of the two sewage works in Farnworth passed to the Bolton & District Joint Sewerage Board.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Good progress was made during the year in the conversion of waste water closets to fresh water closets, the work being encouraged by the local authority by a grant of £10 towards the cost of each conversion.

Accommodation at the end of 1954 :—

No. of privy middens	3
No. of closets attached to these middens	4
No. of pail closets	8
No. of dry ashpits (exluding middens)	Nil
No. of movable ashbins.....	10,204
No. of trough closets	Nil
No. of waste water closets	66
No. of fresh water closets	10,219

No. of houses on water carriage system	9177
No. of waste water closets converted to fresh water closets during the year	69

The privies and pail closets left in the area are on outlying farms where, at the moment, it is not practicable to connect to the public sewer.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF HOUSE REFUSE

This service is under the control of the Borough Surveyor. There is a weekly collection of house refuse and at the same time a collection of salvage carried out by three covered motor vehicles.

The refuse was disposed of by tipping in the Darley area.

The provision of dustbins to privately owned houses continues to cause difficulty as a result of the legal situation whereby responsibility for the renewal of dustbins is placed neither on owner nor occupier. The Council considered the question of a municipal dustbin scheme, by which dustbins would be renewed by the Corporation, but decided to continue with a policy of serving notices. Two property owners appealed against such notices to the Bolton County Magistrates' Court. The Court allowed the owners' appeals but declined to make orders against the occupiers of the houses.

58 dustbins were provided through the actions of the Department to private houses.

VERMIN INFESTATION

The incidence of infestation of houses with *cimex lectularius* (bed bugs) was small. It was not necessary to have any houses disinfested with hydrogen cyanide. 7 council houses and 19 privately owned houses were disinfested with D.D.T. in solution.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 154

This section prohibits the giving of any article whatsoever to children under 14 years of age by persons engaged in collecting rags, old clothes or similar articles.

There were no prosecutions under this section during 1954.

In many cases in Farnworth, the law is being evaded by the rag gatherers giving balloons and toys to the parents instead of to the children. The dangers of this practice are evident when one has seen balloons inflated by the mouths of rag gatherers and toys lying cheek by jowl with rags of doubtful cleanliness. Parents cannot be warned too strongly of the danger of accepting these articles in exchange for rags.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Pet Shops are inspected in co-operation with the R.S.P.C.A. 2 shops were registered in Farnworth in 1954.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

20 observations were taken during the year.

In cases where smoke emission was excessive, consultations were held with the owners of the offending plants and in some cases better methods of hand firing resulted in an improvement.

There is room for great improvement in the case of atmospheric pollution in Farnworth. In co-operation with the Manchester and District Regional Smoke Abatement Committee, two sets of apparatus have been installed to measure the amount of pollution in Farnworth, one being situated at the Hall Lane Sewage Works and the other at Corporation Store Yard, Albert Road. There are 35 local authorities in the neighbourhood of Manchester who participate in this scheme.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1954 (INCLUDING HOUSING)

No. of premises visited	2,097
No. of Visits :—	
Houses—Public Health Act	818
Houses—Housing Act	235
Houses—Re-inspections	1,910
Disinfections	26
Disinfestations	81
Infectious diseases	117
Factories	113
Bakehouses	61
Milk distributors	42
Baths	13
Offices	3
Food premises	299
Drainage work	317
Ice cream dealers	27
Rodent control	1,162
Mortuary	2
Smoke observations	20
Market	6
Butchers' shops	69
Farms	9
Fried fish shops	35
Overcrowding	50
Piggeries	4
Licensed premises	44
Schools	2
Shops Act	194
Pet shops	4
Cinemas	2
Caravans	3
General nuisances	98
Miscellaneous	349
Slaughterhouses	126
Conversion of waste water closets	69
Dairies	12

Defects or nuisances :—

Number discovered	1,455
Number abated	1,162

Number of notices served :—

Informal	655
Statutory	456

SHOPS AND OFFICES	Inspections	Defects & Contraventions	Remedied
(a) Shops Act, 1934, relating to ventilation and temperature of shops and to sanitary conveniences	194	19	17
(b) Public Health Act, 1936, relating to conditions in offices, i.e. ventilation, Sanitary conveniences, etc.	3	—	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. INSPECTIONS :—

Premises	No. of inspections	No. of written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories without mechanical power	14	2	—
Factories with mechanical power	97	11	—
Other premises	2	2	—
Total	113	15	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND :—

	Found	Remedied	Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences :—			
(a) Insufficient	6	3	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	23	36	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	8	5	—
Total	38	45	—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Act requires the Local Authority to take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that, as far as is practicable, the district is kept free from rats and mice and to that end to carry out such inspections as may be necessary, to destroy rats and

mice on land of which the authority is the occupier and to enforce the duties of owners and occupiers under the Act.

Two rodent operatives are employed who maintain a continuous survey of the district, investigate all notifications by occupiers, carry out destruction measures. Twice each year they examine and treat the public sewers for rat infestation with the help of casual labour. Here it is well to point out that the notification of rodent infestation on premises is obligatory and is of great assistance to the Health Department.

Every such complaint is investigated and appropriate measures taken; whenever possible the source of infestation is found and dealt with. Very frequently in the case of rat infestation the source of infestation is found to be defects in the drainage system of the premises. The methods of treatment used are poisoning, trapping and gassing.

In particular, the use of coumaric poison "warfarin" has proved extremely effective in situations where its use is possible.

An analysis of the numbers of surface infestations found and treated follows, in which it will be seen that most of the infestations found and treated occurred in dwelling-houses. It may be that there is some reluctance on the part of occupiers of business premises to notify slight infestations because of the charge for treatment that has to be made. Dwelling-houses are treated free of charge. Treatment of business premises is charged on a basis of men's time and materials used, the preliminary survey being carried out free of charge. It is, of course, open to the occupiers of business premises to carry out their own treatment privately.

	Type of Property				Total
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri cultural	Other (including business & Industrial)	
No. of properties in Local Authority's District	19	9,186	10	922	10,137
No. of properties inspected by the local authority, primarily for rodent infestation	19	333	10	67	429
No. of properties found to be infested by rats	Major - Minor 5	- 51	- -	- 9	- 65
No. of properties found to be seriously infested by mice	1	30	-	5	36
No. of infested properties treated by the local authority	6	81	-	14	101

Details of sewer treatments follow. The methods of treating the sewers is to place unpoisoned bait in measured quantities on the benching of the manholes on two successive days, and where such bait is taken by rats, on the third day, poisoned bait is laid. All the manholes possible are treated once during the year and those manholes showing infestation are treated again six months later.

	April	October
Total number of manholes ..	1054	1054
Dates of treatment	26th April to 18th May	25th October to 9th November
Bait and poison	Bread mash and antu	Sausage rusk and Zinc phosphide
No. of Manholes baited	1054	330
No. of manholes showing prebait take	228	37
No. of manholes showing complete prebait take on one or both days	83	21

PUBLIC BATHS

The Public Baths are owned by the Corporation and are under the control of the Health Committee.

MORTUARY

The Public Mortuary, situated in Gas Street, is the responsibility of the Health Committee, but its use is mainly determined by the County police.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

On the 1st October, 1954, Farnworth was included in a specified area in which only specially designated milk is permitted to be sold. In effect, this means the sale only of pasteurised, sterilised and tuberculin tested milk. As a result, one dairy farmer has applied for and been granted a licence to produce and retail tuberculin tested milk. Milk from the other seven dairy farms in the area is taken to a local dairy for heat treatment and is retailed as pasteurised milk.

This is an important step forward in ensuring the sale of disease free milk to the public and, in particular, in the prevention of the infection of children with bovine tuberculosis.

There follows the number of milk distributors registered by the local authority and operating from :—

(a) Dairies in Farnworth	2
(b) Dairy farms in the district	6
(c) Shops other than dairies	149
(d) Premises outside the district	5

12 dealers' licences to retail tuberculin tested milk were issued.

The number of licences to retail heat treated milk was 16 for pasteurised and 151 for sterilised milk.

20 samples of milk were taken for examination for the presence of tuberculosis of which 16 were satisfactory and two revealed the presence of tuberculosis (the latter two being taken prior to 1st October).

The infected herds were examined and the two cows responsible were found and slaughtered.

ICE CREAM

4 premises are registered as being suitable for the manufacture of ice cream and were so used during the year.

5 premises were registered during the year for the sale of ice cream, making a total of 98 registered in Farnworth.

46 inspections of ice cream dealers' and manufacturers' premises were made during the year. 10 samples of ice cream were taken for bacteriological examination. Of these 5 were Grade 1, 2 were Grade 2, 3 were Grade 3 and none was Grade 4. Steps were taken to improve the grading of the unsatisfactory producers.

PREPARATION, SALE AND STORAGE OF FOOD

607 inspections of premises where food is prepared or sold were made during the year. Proprietors responded readily to informal requests by inspectors to remedy minor infringements of the Food and Drugs Act, and the byelaws relating to the handling and wrapping of food. The provision of hot water supplies in all food premises and the protection of food from contamination continue to receive special attention.

PRESERVED FOOD

42 inspections were made of premises used in connection with the sale of preserved food. 28 such premises are registered in Farnworth.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS

With the end of the rationing of meat and the resumption of private slaughtering, two private slaughter-houses were licensed in the Borough, only one of which was actually in use by the end of the year. Slaughtering commenced in July, mostly in the evenings and on Sundays, which necessitated a substantial amount of work by the Sanitary Inspectors outside normal hours of duty.

All the animals slaughtered were inspected ante and post-mortem and there follows a table of the number of animals inspected and the amount of meat condemned.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	151	Nil	8	815	Nil
Number inspected.....	151	Nil	8	815	Nil
All diseases except tuber- culosis :—					
Whole carcasses con- demned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	Nil	Nil	23	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected af- fected with disease other than tuberculosis.....	7.2%	Nil	Nil	2.8%	Nil
Tuberculosis only :—					
Whole carcasses con- demned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned	21	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	13.9%	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

No. of carcasses found to be affected with cysticercus bovis.. Nil.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACTS, 1933 & 1954.

Two persons received new licences to slaughter animals and four persons had their licences to slaughter renewed.

DETAILS OF FOODSTUFFS CONDEMNED

Articles condemned	Number	Weight (lbs.)	Reason
Beef :			
Organs or parts of carcasses ..	33	479	Localised tuberculosis
do.	11	52	Parasitic and other conditions
do.	6	917	Bone taint
do.	5	79	Decomposition
Pork :			
Organs or parts of carcasses ..	31	77½	Decomposition
Bacon	1	38	Decomposition
Mutton :			
Organs or portions of carcasses	23	40	Parasitic and other conditions
Fish			
Salmon (tins).....	12	20¼	Decomposed or otherwise unfit
Lobster (tins).....	2	¾	do.
Fruit and Vegetables (tins) :			
Raspberries	6	6	do.
Strawberries	2	2	do.
Fruit salad.....	105	105	do.
Cherries.....	5	5	do.
Peaches	41	41	do.
Oranges.....	43	40	do.
Apples	20	25	do.
Pineapples	43	43	do.
Pears	96	96	do.
Bilberries	16	15	do.
Fruit Pie Filling	1	7	do.
Prunes.....	12	11¼	do.
Blackberries	1	½	do.
Grapefruit	2	2	do.
Apricots	3	3	do.
Beans	48	48	do.
Gherkins	3	3	do.
Tomatoes	27	17	do.
Peas.....	10	9¾	do.
Meat (tinned) :			
Cooked ham	50	1,001	do.
Ox Tongue	40	243	do.
Corned beef	15	89	do.
Ham Loaf.....	8	15	do.
Steak	40	40	do.
Pork sausage	10	5	do.
Vienna sausage	1	¾	do.
Stewed mutton	21	21	do.
Rabbit	4	4	do.
Luncheon meat	3	15¾	do.
Lambs' tongues	28	24	do.
Chicken	3	12	do.
Jellied veal.....	1	6	do.
Jellied pork	1	6	do.
Miscellaneous :			
Milk	100	74	do.
Spaghetti in meat	1,008	504	do.

No. of food premises in district at the end of year :—

Type of business	No.
General grocers and provision dealers	142
Greengrocers and fruiterers (including those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	30
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	5
Meat shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	37
Bakers and/or confectioners	46
Fried fish shops	26
Shops selling mainly sugar confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc...	17
Licensed premises, clubs, canteens, restaurants, cafes, snack bars and similar catering establishments.....	93

HAWKERS

No hawkers were newly registered during the year; total number registered in Farnworth—12.

ALDULTERATION OF FOOD

The County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938/1950, and samples are taken by the County Sanitary Officer in collaboration with the local Sanitary Officer.

Particulars of samples taken during the year :—

Milk	95
Other articles	45

The other 45 articles comprised :—

2 Malt vinegar	1 Gravy browning
1 Cornflour	2 Beans in tomato. canned
2 Mustard compound	1 Fish paste
1 Condensed milk, skimmed.	1 Lemon cheese
sweetened	1 Margarine
1 Pork sausages	2 Tea
1 Epsom Salts	1 Sponge cake and sponge
1 Cough syrup	pudding mixture, sweetened
1 Castor oil	1 Oatmeal
2 Sugar	1 Barley
4 Fish, canned	1 Cooking salt
1 Shrimps, canned	1 Table salt
2 Cakes	1 Fresh orange drink
1 Sago	1 Christmas pudding
1 White pepper	1 Ground almonds
4 Jam	2 Pickles
1 Piccalilli	1 Orange drink

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :—

SAMPLE	RESULT OF ANALYSIS	ACTION TAKEN
1 pork sausage	Meat content only 53·5%	Vendor interviewed

SAMPLE	RESULT OF ANALYSIS	ACTION TAKEN
1 informal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 0·6% of extraneous water.	Same vendor. Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 informal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1·1% of extraneous water.	
1 informal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 0·8% of extraneous water.	
1 informal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 1·5% of extraneous water.	
1 sago	Consisted of tapioca.	Vendor notified.
1 informal milk	Deficient 20% fat and low in solids-not-fat.	
1 informal milk	Deficient 11·6% fat whilst the freezing point indicated the presence of 0·5% extraneous water.	
1 informal milk	Deficient 10% fat whilst the freezing point indicated the presence of 0·6% of extraneous water.	
1 informal milk	Deficient 23·3% fat whilst the freezing point indicated the presence of 0·3% of extraneous water.	Same vendor. Formal samples obtained.
1 informal milk	The freezing point indicated the presence of 3·1% of extraneous water.	
1 informal milk	Deficient 15% fat whilst the freezing point indicated the presence of 0·8% of extraneous water.	
1 informal milk	Deficient 1·6% fat whilst the freezing point indicated the presence of 3·3% of extraneous water.	
1 informal milk	Deficient 3·3% fat and slightly low in solids-not-fat.	

1 fresh orange drink	Contained only 4·8% of orange	No action taken
1 orange drink	Contained only 4·1% of orange.	No action taken

HOUSING

Number of houses erected during the year :—

(i) By the local authority.....	154
(ii) By other local authorities	—
(iii) By other bodies or persons	1

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	460
(b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made for the purpose.....	2026
2. (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.....	49
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose.	49
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.....	16
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	441

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR

WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	282
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs..	33
2. Number of dwelling-houses which, after service of formal notices, were rendered fit :—	
(a) By owners	18
(b) By local authority in default of owners..	1

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.....	183
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) By owners	91
(b) By local authority in default of owners..	—
(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made.....	3
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders.....	Nil
3. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which undertakings “ not to occupy ” were accepted by the local authority.....	Nil
(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
1. Number of dwelling-houses, separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made.....	—
2. Number of Closing Orders which were determined, the premises having been rendered fit.	—
(e) Proceedings under section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—	
1. Number of clearance areas represented.....	1
2. Number of houses concerned in 1.	7
3. Number of areas cleared	Nil
4. Number of houses concerned in 3.	Nil
5. Number of residents displaced in 3. and 4. ..	Nil
6. Number of houses built by local authority to re-house residents displaced under Clearance Orders	Nil

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART IV — OVERCROWDING :—

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.....		33
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.....		43
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.....		250
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year.....		6
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.....		7
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases..		39

5. HOUSING ACTS, 1949-54. IMPROVEMENT
GRANTS, ETC.

	Schemes of private bodies or individ- uals	Schemes of local auth- ority
(a) (i) Number of Schemes submitted		
(a) by private individuals to local authority	22	
(b) by local authority to Ministry..	—	—
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	22	—
(b) (i) Number of Schemes finally approved.	10	—
(ii) Number of dwelling-houses or other buildings affected	10	—
(iii) Number of additional separate dwell- ings to be provided under these app- proved Schemes	Nil	—
(c) Number of additional separate dwellings actually completed during the year.....	Nil	—
(d) Any other action taken under the Act (give brief particulars)	Nil	

Housing Conditions

1. General observations as to housing conditions :—

Of 9181 houses in the town, 2835 are Corporation houses aged from 30 years to newly built, and are in good condition ; of the remainder approximately 3000 houses are old (50 years or more) lacking in modern amenities, have solid walls and dampness is a prevalent defect in them. Most of them are 4 room cottage type, easily overcrowded.

2. Sufficiency of supply of houses :—

At the end of 1954, 743 applications for Corporation houses had been received from families in lodgings. Approximately 33 houses were known to be overcrowded.

3. Fitness of houses.

Notices for essential repairs are continually being served by the Health Department but there has been little improvement of housing standards, as distinct from the maintenance of existing standards in rented houses.

Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.

The above Act came into force on the 30th August and amongst other matters required a resumption of the clearance of unfit houses, including a report to be made to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government by 30th August, 1955 of the Council's proposals in this field for the subsequent five years.

In consequence, preliminary surveys commenced of the unfit houses in the Borough, and one clearance area (Lord's Square) was represented before the end of 1954.

Part II of the Act deals with permitted rent increases for rent controlled houses and led to a demand for certificates of disrepair. Many applications for such certificates were made before the 30th August and therefore, were made under the Increase of Rent and Mortgage Interest (Restriction) Acts.

There follows a resume of applications for certificates of disrepair :—

INCREASE OF RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST (RESTRICTIONS) ACTS.

No. of applications for certificates	No. granted	No. rejected	No. revoked
26	23	3	Nil

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

No. of applications for certificates	No. granted	No. rejected	No. revoked
29	29	Nil	Nil

